

DOCKET NO: 248154US2



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
KENJI OOTA ET AL : EXAMINER: PHAM, LONG
SERIAL NO: 10/765,158 :
FILED: JANUARY 28, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2814
FOR: PRESSURE-CONTACT TYPE :
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE :

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the election requirement dated April 4, 2005, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse the species IV, identified in the Official Action as corresponding to Figures 4A-4B, for further examination on the merits. Applicants identify Claims 1,2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15 as readable on the elected species. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected species.

Furthermore, while the Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct species, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Although the outstanding Official Action does not identify search classifications, it is believed that the claims of the present application would have to be searched in a handful of sub-classes. Furthermore, since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without substantial additional

Application No. 10/765,158
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2005

effort. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Election Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single species be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-16 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

I:\ATTY\EHK\AMEND-RESPONSES\0039\24s\248154US-PE.DOC